

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	:	Confirmation No.: 8247
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Andrea BASSO et al.	:	Attorney Ref.: 1999-0522A
	:	
Serial No.: 09/650,355	:	Art Unit: 2424
	:	
Filed: August 29, 2000	:	Examiner: Son P. Huynh
	:	
FOR: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR GENERATING CODED VIDEO SEQUENCES FROM STILL MEDIA		

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

MAIL STOP: AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the final Office Action dated January 29, 2009, kindly enter the following amendment and remarks.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.

AMENDMENT

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for generating a customized coded video sequence based on a subscriber's input, comprising:

receiving a multimedia data input from the subscriber a plurality of still images that includes viewer-specific image data;

extracting the image data from the plurality of still images;

deriving virtual camera scripts and coding hints from the image data, wherein the derived virtual camera script comprises a generated sequence of frames that simulates camera movement, and wherein the virtual camera scripts specify a variable assigned to one piece of the viewer-specific image data;

generating a video sequence based on the subscriber's input, the extracted image data, and the derived virtual camera scripts and coding hints;

coding the generated video sequence based on the coding hints;

outputting the coded video sequence to an output device as a multimedia presentation;

and

inserting a customized advertisement during the multimedia presentation, wherein the inserted customized advertisement includes an offer of an award to a user contingent, at least partly, on a user interaction with the customized advertisement.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving preference information from one of the subscriber and a service provider;

storing the preference information in a subscriber profile; and
generating the video sequence based on the subscriber's profile.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the subscriber's profile includes at least one of format settings, coding preferences, handicap settings, storage addresses of image data, device characteristics, and billing information.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the format settings include at least one of text font settings, text style settings, and display settings.
5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the coding preferences are used as coding hints and include at least one of audio coding preferences and visual coding preferences.
6. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the handicap settings include at least one of visual enhancement settings and audio enhancement settings.
7. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the storage addresses of image data include at least one of a computer image file, an image database, a Web page address, a universal resource locator (URL), a floppy disk, and CD ROM.
8. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the subscriber's profile includes billing information.
9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the coded video sequence output includes one or more images based on the storage addresses of image data from the subscriber's profile.
11. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the subscriber provides multimedia data input and preference information to the input unit using at least one of a touch-tone menu, an interactive voice response system, a voice recognition system, a touch screen, a stylus, a keyboard, a Web page, the Internet, to telephone, a cable TV, a personal computer, and a wireless communication device.
12. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the subscriber's profile includes information about the display devices owned by the subscriber.
13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the coded video sequence output is customized for at least one of the devices included in the subscriber's profile.
14. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising storing the extracted image data in an image data database, the derived virtual camera scripts in a virtual camera scripts database, and the derived coding hints in a coding hints database.
15. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving one or more input commands from a user, wherein at least one of the steps of extracting, deriving, generating, coding and outputting are performed based on the user's input commands.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the image data include image data from at least one of images, pixelmaps, a series of still frames, panorama images, a series of photographs from a film, web-pages, single files containing vector representation of text and graphics, short video clips, single files containing a vector representation of synthetically coded 3D worlds, and lightfields of single objects.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the virtual camera scripts include at least one of a sliding window of resolution, a document browsing simulation, a general composition of images, synthesized videos from a set of images, a panorama synthesis, and parallax techniques.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the coding hints include at least one of motion information used to generate a sequence of frames, temporal evolution of each frame, and coding parameters for each image.

19. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the generating step uses a rendering plug-in to decode portions of the image data into pixel maps.

20. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the generating step uses addresses to generate an image sequence.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the addresses include URLs.

22. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the generating step generates the video

sequence from more than one multimedia source.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the multimedia sources include at least one of television, cable TV, interactive TV, Internet, telephone, computer generated images, wireless communications, photographs and electronically stored still images.

24. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving an audio input corresponding to the generated video sequence.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, further comprising synchronizing the audio input with the generated video sequence.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving audio input from the subscriber, the audio input stored as at least one of a computer file or an address;
storing the subscriber's audio input in the subscriber's profile;
retrieving the subscriber's audio input; and
outputting the subscriber's audio input in conjunction with the generated video sequence.

27. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the coded video sequence is output using scrolling techniques.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the inserted customized advertisement is personalized to a user.

29-30. (Canceled)

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks. Applicants amend claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Rejection of Claims 1-8 and 10-28 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-8 and 10-28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sezan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,236,395) (“Sezan et al.”) in view of Chen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,307,550) (“Chen et al.”), Jain et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,144,375) (“Jain et al.”) and further in view of Slezak (U.S. Patent No. 6,006,257) (“Slezak”). Applicants amend claim 1 to recite an additional limitations of a plurality of images that includes viewer-specific image data and further that the virtual camera scripts specify a variable assigned to one piece of the viewer-specific image data.

The specification provides support for this new limitation at page 15, line 30 – page 16, line 8. Some non-limiting examples from the specification of viewer-specific image data are a household member such as a child’s face, local merchants, local points of interest, and local professionals such as a realtor providing a tour of a house. Image data can be viewer-specific in that it closely relates to the viewer and is familiar or recognizable to the viewer.

Applicants submit that the proposed combination of references, specifically Sezan et al., does not teach or suggest these new limitations for at least two reasons. First, Sezan et al. do not teach that the received multimedia data input includes viewer-specific image data. Sezan et al. describe a program 38 shown in FIG. 2 as originating for example from broadcast television, cable television, satellite television, digital television, Internet broadcasts, world wide web, and digital video discs. Sezan et al., col. 7, lines 50-67. These media sources do not provide viewer-

specific data as recited in claim 1. On the contrary, these sources provide mass media content which is the same for all viewers and does not provide different multimedia content for specific viewers.

Further, Sezan et al. teach a user description scheme that provides information regarding the user's preferences. Sezan et al., Abstract. Such a user description scheme, while providing potentially useful information regarding users, does not teach or suggest viewer-specific image data. The system of Sezan et al. compares information in the user description scheme and in the program description scheme in order to make selections. The user description scheme indicates user preferences for mass media described in the program description scheme and does not teach viewer-specific image data.

Second, Sezan et al. do not teach that the virtual camera scripts specify a variable assigned to one piece of the viewer-specific image data. Sezan et al. teach a program description scheme and character profiles which can identify particular image objects in multimedia data, such as Michael Jordan. Sezan et al., col. 5, lines 10-32. Sezan et al. further teach that a character profile can include position and size of the region of the object, movement of the region between frames, text and audio annotations, and even web page information. However, none of these pieces of information teach or suggest a variable assigned to one piece of viewer-specific image data. These pieces of information are not viewer-specific because they are each the same for every viewer. The information included in the program description scheme of Sezan et al. is directed solely to the content of the media and does not take in to account the relationship of the media content to a viewer in such a way as to acknowledge that certain image data is or is not viewer-specific. Therefore, Sezan et al. do not teach any way to associate a variable with viewer-specific image data. Applicants submit that the proposed combination of references does not teach or suggest all the limitations of claim 1. Applicants further submit that

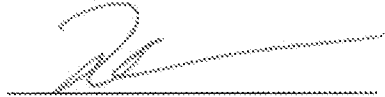
claims 2-8 and 10-28 are patentable inasmuch as they depend from claim 1 and recite additional limitations therefrom. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Having addressed all rejections and objections, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If necessary, the Commissioner for Patents is authorized to charge or credit the **Novak, Druce & Quigg, LLP, Account No. 14-1437** for any deficiency or overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 30, 2009

By: 

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